

Southeast News

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NUMBER 6



Installation of Dr. Emmett Floyd as Conference Minister.

Why Do People Join the Church?

A new book by Edward Rauff, director of the Research and Information Center for the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., gives some answers to the question, "Why do people who have been outside the church suddenly decide to become active participants in church life?"

The answers of 180 formerly unchurched persons, as quoted in the book, also provide insights into why many people fall away from the church, and what the church — including your own congregation — can do to help bring them back.

There are signs, Mr. Rauff's book notes, of renewed interest in the church, particularly by young people. Church growth in conservative denominations, he also observes, challenges main-line denominations to be more enthusiastic in sharing their own treasury of thought and tradition.

Mr. Rauff lists four factors as most effective in bringing people into active church membership: witness by example, verbal testimony, a specific invitation to the church and its activities, and planned

"Celebration" Key Word at 14th Annual Meeting

"Celebration" was the key word at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, held Friday through Sunday, June 6-8, 1980 at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nearly 250 delegates, visitors and youth gathered from churches across the Conference to not only celebrate the ministry of retiring Conference Minister William J. Andes and his wife, Carey, but to celebrate with United Church President Avery D. Post the installation of new Conference Minister Emmett O. Floyd.

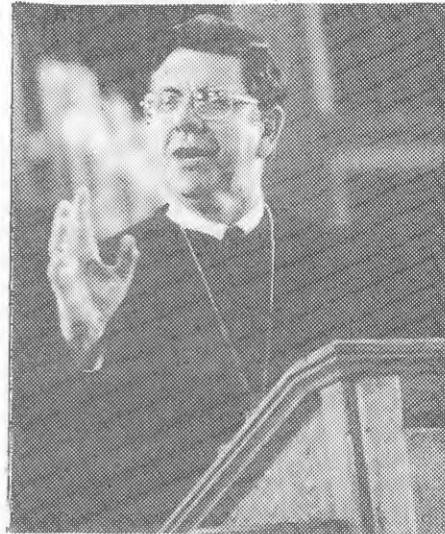
Meeting in the attractive accommodations of historic Jubilee Hall on the campus of UCC related Fisk University, the 14th Annual Meeting began on Friday evening, June 6, with a special service celebrating the ministry of Dr. W. J. Andes who had retired April 1 after 14 years as Conference Minister. Following the service, for which there was standing room only, a reception was held in the Andes' honor.

The Annual Meeting was officially called to order on Saturday, June 7, by Conference Moderator Henry Tuttle. Following a roll call of churches, the Conference was greeted by an impressive number of fraternal delegates and observers from

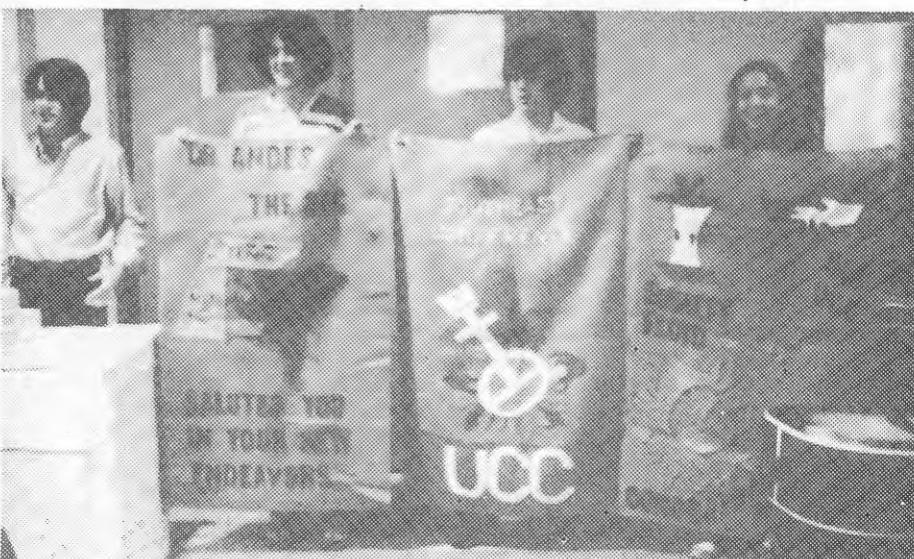
the Episcopal, CME, United Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Presbyterian-U.S. and Greek Orthodox churches.

Concluding the Moderator's address, the highlight of reports delivered during the

Cont'd. Page 3



Dr. Avery Post, UCC President, delivered the Sunday sermon.



Banners made by youth at the Annual Meeting were presented to [l-r]
Dr. William Andes, Dr. Avery Post, Dr. Emmett Floyd.

Cont'd. Page 4



William Scott presented greetings to Bill and Carey Andes.

Andes Honored at Service of Celebration

After 14 years of service to the Southeast Conference, William J. Andes, retired Conference Minister, and his wife Carey, were honored on Friday evening of the Annual Meeting at "A Special Service In Celebration of the Ministry of Dr. William J. Andes Upon His Retirement." Well over 200 persons attended the service which was held in the beautiful Appleton Room of Jubilee Hall on the Fisk University campus.

In addition to Conference Vice-Moderator Freda Brown, words of appreciation were given by Franklin Thomas, Lelan McReynolds and Arnold Slater, who was chairman of the Personnel Committee through which William Andes was nominated as Conference Minister in 1965. After a formal declaration by the Moderator, William Scott Jr. wished the Andes Godspeed in their new life ahead in Elon College, N.C.

A beautiful bound copy of letters of appreciation was presented to the Andes by W. Walter Hall who presided during the service and was Chairman of the Appreciation Committee. Following the benediction by Dr. Andes, delegates honored the Andes with a rousing standing ovation.

Known affectionately as "Bill and Carey" to countless persons throughout the Conference, the Andes intend to move in late June to Elon College, N.C. where Bill will take on part time duties in development and fund raising for Elon Home for Children, a health and welfare institution of the United Church of Christ. The work of Bill and Carey Andes was greatly appreciated and they will be greatly missed!

On Leaving The Southeast Conference

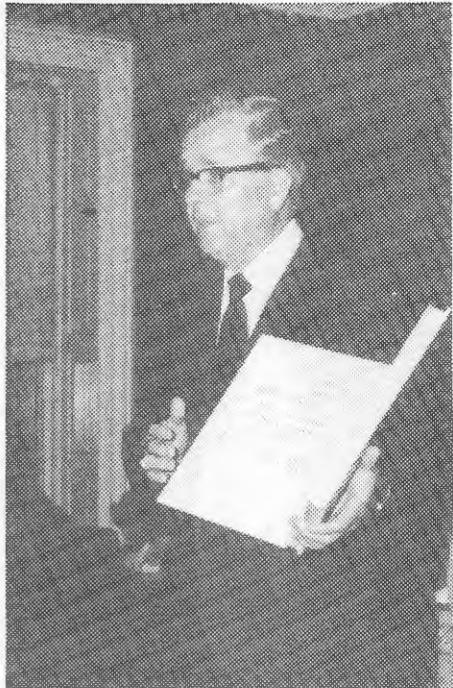
My father used to say, "All good things must come to an end." I did not like this saying, but now realize that perhaps it is true. The Bible says there is a time for everything under the sun: a time for weeping, and a time for rejoicing; a time for being born, and a time to die; a time for speaking, and a time for being quiet; a time for saying hello, and a time for saying goodbye.

I believe it is time to say goodbye, something which is very hard for me to say. Over the past 14 years, we have become very good friends, have grown a lot, and found a wonderful feeling of love and compassion here with you.

We shall have a different life when we begin again in North Carolina, but it should be also a good life, nearer our families, close to many former friends and relatives. We shall walk again on familiar streets and also on unfamiliar streets because of changes made in every city everywhere. We shall miss you all terribly, but we shall have happy memories of you.

We want you to feel welcome in our home anytime you come to our area, and we will be disappointed if you don't come. Our residence is located at 207 Atkinson Avenue, Elon College, N.C. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 60, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

We wish for you success with the new churches, and God's love and sustaining power in all your endeavors. We know God will be with you here in the Southeast, as well as with us in Southern Conference, and the Sun will shine sometimes in the Sunbelt, in spite of the heavy rains.



Bound letters of appreciation were presented to the Andes by Rev. Walter Hall.

Thanks for your support, your help, and your love. We love you for all the things you are and for what you have helped us to be.

We were almost overcome with the beautiful service and reception given us at the Annual Meeting on June 6. It was really a great experience to receive all your individual greetings and good wishes. We appreciate so much the beautiful book of letters, the lovely orchid, and the check to help start our landscaping.

May God keep you every time and everywhere!

Bill and Carey Andes



Over 200 persons gathered to celebrate the Andes' ministry.



"Riders In The Sky" provided Saturday evening "Music City" entertainment.

Emmett Floyd Installed as Conference Minister

Dr. Emmett O. Floyd was installed as the Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference on June 8, 1980 in special services held in the Chapel of Fisk University, Nashville, TN.

Present for the service was United Church of Christ President Avery Post who preached the morning sermon.

Joining Dr. Post in the order of installation was Rev. Henry Tuttle, Southeast Conference Moderator, Mrs. Peggy Hall, Chairwoman of the Search Committee and Mrs. Mary Marshall, Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors. Bringing greetings from the Council of Conference Executives was Rev. James Lightbourne who presented Dr. Floyd with a Bible and the medallion of his new office.

The service closed with Dr. Floyd leading in the celebration of Holy Communion.



Dr. Emmett O. Floyd, new Conference Minister, Southeast Conference.

Annual Meeting - Cont'd.

morning business session was that of the Conference Task Force on Women whose spring retreat had been as impressive as it was well attended.

In addition to institutional reports, the afternoon session of the Conference focused on the exciting story of the Southeast Conference New Church Development Campaign. Following thought-provoking presentations by Rev. Joe Ingle on ministry to prisoners in the south and Rev. Wilson Welch on the renewed need for the Fisk University Race Relations Institute, the Conference was dismissed for the afternoon.

A delicious banquet, which culminated

the excellent food service throughout the conference, preceded an opening address by Dr. Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister-elect of the Southeast Conference. Following the introduction of Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ, delegates were treated to the annual graduation ceremonies of Ole Thermometer U. The evening was topped off by a concert from one of Nashville's leading country and western groups, "Riders In The Sky."

On Sunday morning, June 8, Dr. Floyd and Dr. Post were both guests at a Youth Breakfast after which the Annual Meeting convened for its concluding business session. The 14th Annual Meeting then culminated with a memorable service of worship, punctuated by an excellent sermon by Dr. Avery Post and the installation of Dr. Emmett Floyd as Conference Minister. Making a special trip to be present for the Service of Installation was Rev. James Lightbourne, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, and former Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.

In addition to special worship services by members of each of the Southeast Conference's three new church starts, a special feature of this year's Annual Meeting was the special programming for youth led by the Southeast Conference Youth Core under the leadership of Debbie Schafer.

With invitations from both Southern Union Junior College and St. John's UCC in Cullman, Alabama, consideration will be made later in the year concerning the place for the 1981 Annual Meeting.



Rev. George Bennett and members of Button-Gwinnett UCC share experiences as a new church start.

Floyd Addresses Annual Meeting

In his first major address before the Southeast Conference, new Conference Minister Emmett O. Floyd remarked that "the future of the United Church of Christ as a major force in the religious life of this country may well lie in the New South."

Addressing the delegates of the Conference Annual Meeting following the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Floyd continued by describing the growth patterns in the New South as a "golden opportunity" for a major church development effort. "We have the kind of history, the kind of open-ended search for truth, the kind of inclusive fellowship that will appeal to many of these new citizens that, in growing numbers, are arriving daily in our area," he said.

In an explanation of what the United Church of Christ has to offer the "Bible Belt," Dr. Floyd emphasized a "commitment to Scripture" and "service to our fellows." This, he stated, "ought to save us from sentimental do-goodism or escapist Biblicalism which leads to a preoccupation with charts and date-setting about the end-time."

Admitting that the job of Conference Minister was growing larger and larger before his eyes all the time, Dr. Floyd concluded by calling on the Southeast Conference to "continue the task of clarifying our identity," while remaining open to "cooperation and joint witness within an ecumenical setting."

Extending his gratitude to retired Conference Minister William J. Andes, Dr. Floyd told delegates he looked forward to meeting them and visiting in their churches in the year ahead.



Youth provided leadership in all phases of the Conference.

Record Budget Calls for

Increased Stewardship

In response to the adoption by the Southeast Conference of a record 1980 budget of \$230,525, Rev. Ed Mehlhaff, Conference Staff Stewardship Consultant, challenged churches to increase their financial support of the Southeast Conference.

This support can be provided in 1980 in two different ways. With \$113,900 needed through OCWM support, Rev. Mehlhaff suggested that increased giving to missions through OCWM would be most welcome. Secondly, the Southeast Conference New Church Development Campaign has a minimum 1980 goal of \$21,000. Special offering envelopes and other material for New Church Development are available through the Conference office.

It is through giving in the local church, Mehlhaff emphasized, that the future of the United Church in the south is to be found.

Youth Event Led By Youth Core

An important part of the 1980 Annual Meeting was the Youth Event, a comprehensive program that was both a part of and separate from the conference meeting and was held for young people in grades 7-12.

Offering a variety of activities that were inter-woven into the Annual Meeting schedule, the Youth Event attracted attendance by some 65 young people. Planning and leadership for activities was provided by the Southeast Conference Youth Core, a group of 30 young people and adults from throughout the Conference who were selected for their leadership ability.

In addition to rap sessions, the Youth Event offered a series of workshops which included: crafts, creativities, music, organization and planning, art and puppet ministry, recruitment of youth and the story of the UCC.

Participants in the Sunday morning celebration of Holy Communion, the youth provided a series of special "break ins," which were short skits presented before the delegates summarizing youth feelings about themselves and their faith.

A special highlight to the Youth Event was the Sunday morning breakfast with United Church President Avery Post and new Conference Minister Dr. Emmett Floyd, both of whom spoke about the importance of youth in the life of the church. Specially prepared banners were presented not only to Dr. Post and Dr. Floyd, but to retiring Conference Minister William Andes as well.

The Youth Core is under the leadership of Debbie Schafer, part-time Conference Youth Core Coordinator.



Puppet ministry was a favorite Youth Event workshop.

Why Do People? - Cont'd.

programs of congregational outreach. Some congregations, he says, are "magnet" churches, attracting members far more effectively than others. These congregations are characterized by their worship, their ministers, their members and by their specific programs aimed at building up the membership and reaching out to others.

To discover more about why people join the church and how your own congregation can become a "magnet" attracting people in your own community, read *Why People Join the Church* by Edward A. Rauff. (New York and Washington, D.C.: The Pilgrim Press and Glenmary Research Institute, 1979, \$5.95.)

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Some of the 30 members of the Southeast Conference Youth Core.

OTU RAISES TEMPERATURE ON DEGREE RECIPIENTS

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference provided a suitable excuse for Ole Thermometer U, a somewhat backward and occasional institution, to hold its annual and always memorable Graduation Ceremonies for yet another year. Meeting in the comfortable confines of the Fisk University Dining Room, OTU raised the temperature by innumerable degrees and otherwise "laid it on" four well deserving candidates whose activities, or lack thereof, had extinguished them in the year past.

Present for the second year in a row, the seven members composing the school band, glee club and chorus stunned the audience not only with their new uniforms of chartreuse and plaid, but with their unusual rendition of Pomp and Circumstance done in 11/16 time.

Joining President David Beebe in the awarding of degrees was Dean Warren Blankenhorn and Co-Dean Stephen Gray. An instructor in early childhood development, the Co-Dean used the ceremonies to demonstrate the right-handed thumb sucking method, having left his pacifier in the glove compartment of his car.

Doing his best to up-stage the Co-Dean and otherwise distract the audience, President Beebe prevailed in giving the first, second, and an occasional third degree to the following chosen few:

For her liberated leadership and her culinary challenge to the men in the audience to learn to fix their own meals, Ms. Louise Cox was awarded a Doctorate in Sacred Culinary Liberation. Caught trying to sneak out the door, Rev. Wilson Welch was detained for a sufficient amount of time to recognize the three horses of pastor, teacher and administrator which he rides at one time in three separate directions and for which he was



Receiving degrees are Louise Cox [above] and Emmett Floyd [below]



awarded his Doctorate in Tripartite Equestrianism.

Reminded that as a Navy Chaplain he must now find land transportation, new Conference Minister Emmett Floyd had his Masters supplemented with a Doctorate of Xero Naval Administration. And rounding out the degree recipients, United Church President Avery Post, who secretly admitted to wanting to become a Jedi Knight, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Peripatetic & Prophetic Perambulatory Orchestration, otherwise known as D-3po.

Festivities concluded with the singing of the Alley Mamy after which Dean Warren Blankenhorn chastised the degree recipients and told them to go home and sin no more.



Saturday evening banquet, scene of OTU.

Response to Southern Alabama Mini-Camp

Overwhelming

Anticipating less than 100 participants, leaders of the Southern Alabama Mini-Camp, held April 25-27 at Camp Ada, Navarre, FL, were overwhelmed by the arrival of 229 juniors, jr. high, sr. high and adult participants!

Not only was the response unanticipated, but it also provided a bit of a challenge. Located on the Gulf of Mexico on Santa Rosa Sound near Pensacola, Camp Ada has sleeping and dining capacity for only 150. As a result, people slept in campers, the back of pickups, on air mattresses and in sleeping bags on the ground. Through some quick work on the part of cooks and camp leaders, sufficient provisions were available and a thoroughly good time was had by all.

Plans are for this to be a regular spring event with an August weekend in one of the other Associations. The August event this year will be at Camp Maxwell near Haleyville, AL.

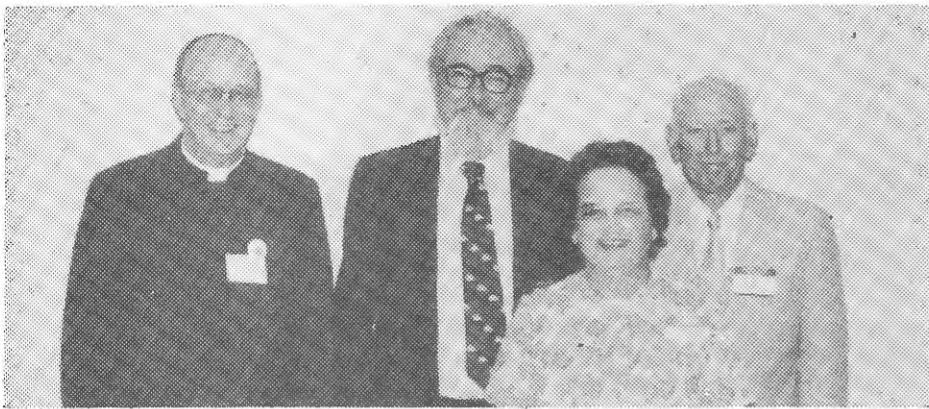
Ala-Tenn Youth to Plan

A meeting to plan association-wide youth events for the Alabama-Tennessee Association will be held at Belvidere, TN, UCC on Saturday, August 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Youth and adult advisors from each Association church are invited to attend. Further information and reservation forms will be forthcoming.

Christian Witness In Zimbabwe

During their country's recent struggle for independence, some Zimbabweans saw complacent Christianity as a tool of the Ian Smith regime. But others were aware and supportive of the clear and firm support for liberation given by the World Council of Churches and by the Roman Catholic Church.

Richard W. Sales who as a missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries in nearby Botswana watched the drama unfolding in Zimbabwe, has an additional word to say regarding the church's role in the liberation of Zimbabwe. Writes Sales: "In the end, as always, the important plebiscite will take place in the hearts of the people, and it will doubtless emphasize what is much more significant than the positions taken by bishops and leaders — that is, the role of thousands of humble and forgotten pastors during the time of crisis."



Worship leaders at Macedonia Celebration were:

[l-r] Dr. W.J. Andes, Dr. Charles Drake, Mrs. Freda Brown, Dr. Melvin Dollar.

OPEN LETTER

Dear _____,

It had been months and months since you were "in" church on Sunday. But Sunday you were here!

When we said we "had missed" you, I hope you knew we were saying something more about us and our feelings than about you and your absence. We were saying simply that ours had been a feeling of loss and emptiness at your absence — that we had a feeling of gladness and fullness at your presence.

Whatever the reasons for your absence, we were glad for your presence. Thank you for overcoming the distance to be with us in worship again. We'll try for our part, to be with you now and in the future so that distance doesn't take place again.

— Rev. William Scott,
Atlanta Central UCC
Newsletter.



Rev. Joyce Myers, OCLL staff person
for the southern region.

Macedonia Church Celebrates 100th Plus

The Macedonia Congregational Church, located in Braselton, GA, celebrated its 100th plus Anniversary on Sunday, May 25, 1980.

Following the 11:00 A.M. morning worship, a dinner was enjoyed at the church followed by an afternoon program of special music. Dr. Charles Drake, headmaster of Landmark School, Pride's Crossing, MA, a native of the community and a member of the church, preached the morning service.

Former pastors, members and friends were on hand to celebrate the joyous occasion. Bringing greetings from the Southeast Conference were Conference Minister W.J. Andes and Conference Vice-Moderator Freda Brown. About 175 persons were in attendance.

Bound editions of the History of Macedonia Congregational Church, prepared by W.N. Lott and Henry C. Weaver, were distributed.

News From Alexander City First

Things are going well and we have a fine spirit at First Congregational Christian Church, UCC, in Alexander City, AL.

This past August we started having a Family Night which has resulted in some inspirational and fun fellowship. At the December Family Night, following dinner we not only exchanged gifts, but we presented Christmas gifts to a woman with four foster children who were present for the occasion. While our church is small with 35 members, we had over 40 people present for this get-together.

Ralph K. Lee is our pastor at present.
— Genie Hayes

Search for a President

Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri, is searching for a new president.

The new president must be a United Church of Christ ordained minister, and be a person of theological vision. A Ph.D. degree is preferable. Pastoral qualities and experience in administration, fund-raising and teaching are desirable.

For presidential profile and application form, write:

Rev. Erwin R. Bode, Chairperson
Presidential Search Committee
Eden Theological Seminary
475 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119
Applications deadline is October 31, 1980.

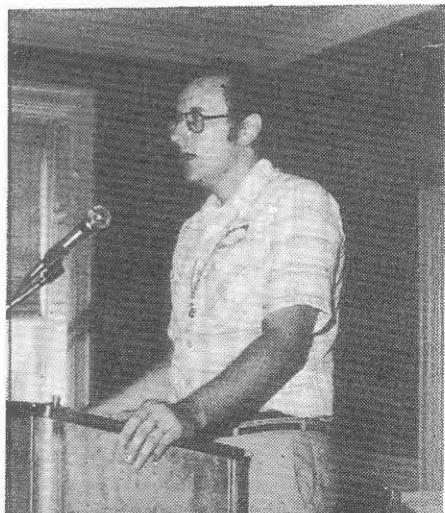
News From LaGrange United

The United Congregational Christian Church, UCC, in LaGrange, Georgia recently hosted the 32 voice choir and Madrigal Singers of Elmhurst College.

On the evening of their arrival, the Women's Fellowship prepared and served dinner and members of the church took the singers into their homes for the night. Breakfast was served at the church under the direction of Jimmy Pilkington prior to the choir's departure for New Orleans, LA.

In other news, a group of 17 young people and adult advisors attended the Youth Camp at Camp Ada in Florida. They reported a most rewarding experience in their Christian training.

Mrs. John Laubenthal



Rev. Joe Ingle, Director of Southern
Coalition On Jails and Prisons.



FLAVIA BURTON

Students Exchange Countries Through ICYE

Each year young Christian Americans choose to live abroad as members of the International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE) family. Students can go to major European, Asian, Australian or Latin American countries.

The most recent Southeast Conference ICYE participant was Ms. Flavia Burton from Brookneade UCC in Nashville. Flavia spent the 1978-79 school year with a host family in Germany.

Applications for the 1980-81 school year for American students over 16 years old and who have not graduated from high school are now being accepted. They will live with host families and attend school. High school graduates who do not wish to attend school may participate in volunteer service projects abroad. In most cases they, too, will live with host families.

The fee is \$2,400. This includes the cost of travel to and from the host country. Meals and lodging are provided by host families. Interested students often are assisted by church groups and other organizations.

Families in this country may apply to be host families. It is possible for several families to join in hosting a student. They are expected to provide full support for the student except for clothing and medical expenses.

Interested students and families should contact Mrs. Trudi Sanford at the Southeast Conference Office in Atlanta.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

First Congregational UCC, Birmingham, AL

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

One of the larger and more active of our historically rooted black congregations is First Congregational Christian Church, UCC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Founded in 1882, First Church Birmingham is located in spacious facilities at 1024 Center Street, North. In addition to a comfortable sanctuary and well appointed church school rooms, the church also has a gym which doubles for use as a fellowship hall.

With some 169 adult members, First Church Birmingham is especially proud of the activities of its 28 youth members. Active in monthly programs and fund raising events, the youth of the church take responsibility for worship leadership on every fifth Sunday.

Two women's groups and the Laymen's Fellowship engage members in active ministry. Activities include a Vacation Bible School, an Annual Barbecue and an Annual Christmas Party for blind and handicapped citizens.

For the past several years the church has also hosted a Day Care Center. Arts and Crafts classes are held weekly for members of the community who wish to attend.

First Church Birmingham looks forward to the future under the leadership of its minister, the Rev. James L. Myers.

More Hunger and Arms — Or Less

"We don't inherit the world from our parents so much as we borrow it from our children. In what shape, then, shall we return it; with more hunger and arms than ever before, or with less of both? And there's another question: it is not whether or not the churches could make a difference; it's whether or not they will. I hope the churches will lead. The world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, too small for anything but love."

William Sloane Coffin, Jr., Pastor
Riverside Church, New York



Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss [r], General Sec.,
American Missionary Association.

Council For Higher Education Meets

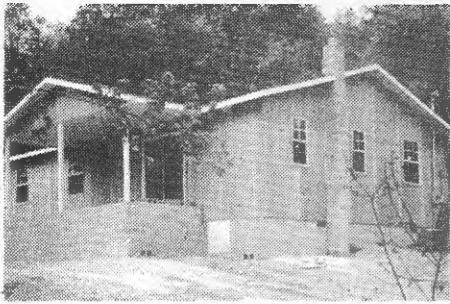
A Regional Meeting of the Council for Higher Education of the United Church of Christ was held May 1-2, 1980 at Fisk University in Nashville, TN.

Under the leadership of Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss, General Secretary of the American Missionary Association, the purpose of the meeting was to consider the nature of and strengthen the practical relationship between local churches and the colleges related to the United Church of Christ.

In addition to representation from the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church, representatives from the following UCC related colleges were present: Catawba College, Dillard University, Elon College, Huston-Tillotson College, Le-Moyne-Owen College, Talladega College, Tougaloo College and host Fisk University.



Rev. Larry Johnson, Tougaloo College



Danny McCann home

Oak Grove Country Fair August 16-17

The Oak Grove Country Fair, sponsored by the Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, UCC, will be held August 16-17, 1980. Located on Oak Grove Road, the Fair grounds are approximately three miles north of Pine Mountain, Georgia on Route 27. Fair hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on both days.

With all proceeds from booth rentals and admission fees going to Christian Outreach, the Oak Grove Country Fair has been one of the primary financial supporters of continuing education programs in the Southeast Conference over the past six years.

The Fair will have approximately 150 exhibitors, plus an old fashion pit cook barbecue and games. Admission cost is \$1.00, students and senior citizens are admitted free.

Dial-A-Story

Messiah United Methodist Church in Wayzata, MN, now sponsors a Dial-A-Story so that youngsters (or oldsters, too, for that matter) can call in to hear a different Bible story each week.

Costing about \$300 per year after an initial start-up cost of \$1,100, the program records the stories and broadcasts them on two Ansafone 520 dictaphones that are connected to two specially-installed telephone lines. The lines are busy every day.

JED Share

Habitat For Humanity Hard At Work

Scott-Morgan Habitat for Humanity, located in Scott and Morgan Counties in Tennessee, is hard at work as great things are unfolding for 1980.

On June 1 an Open House was held to show off Habitat's second completed house, now owned and occupied by the Danny McCann family. Built for a cost of \$18,000, the McCanns, with a \$250 down-payment, pay \$74 a month at no interest!

Work on Habitat's third home is now underway. With the footer poured, work is proceeding quickly.

In January the happy word was received that Habitat and the other five affiliates had each received a house from Mr. and Mrs. John Pritchard. The house will come in 4' x 8' sections and will require only plumbing, electrical and finish work.

In addition, this spring Habitat will also receive a block making machine which is a gift of Mr. N. J. King of Bath, Michigan. Once running, the volunteer help of the six youth groups expected this summer can be used to help the project make its own block.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian endeavor to provide affordable ownership of well-built homes for families that otherwise would probably never be able to afford to own a home. This ministry is especially valued in Morgan and Scott Counties, Tennessee, the two poorest counties in the Appalachian region.

Questions and contributions can be sent to Scott-Morgan Habitat in care of Mark Frey, P. O. Box 14, Robbins, TN 37852.



Presentation of afghan to the McCann family.

Talladega College Receives Pledge From UCBHM

The board of directors of the United Church of Christ's Board for Homeland Ministries, at its biannual meeting in Denver, CO, pledged \$250,000 to Talladega College's endowment fund. Talladega College, located in Talladega, Alabama, is one of three United Church colleges in the Southeast Conference.

Emphasizing their continued commitment to reach out to ethnic peoples, the church agency's board also established a scholarship fund for Hispanic seminarians of \$30,000 a year between 1980 and 1984. In addition, it voted to provide another \$30,000 a year in stipends for an internship program for Hispanic seminarians and to free the first \$37,500 of \$75,675 designated as a matching fund to support black seminarian internships.

Board members stressed the importance of maintaining social justice programs and stepping up evangelism at a time when public concern has shifted toward keeping afloat on the tides of inflation and recession that plague the U.S. economy and when most mainline Protestant churches have experienced membership losses.

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

"One is free to accept or reject Jesus as the Christ. However, if one does accept Him as the Christ there is no longer freedom to exercise stewardship or not."

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